

# Ballad calls Andre the Seal 'the toast of the coast'

By DAN WARREN  
Associated Press writer

Andre the Seal, already a star of stage, screen and aquarium, is being immortalized in a country and western ballad, which he is expected to learn on his guitar.

"Andre the Seal," a song in which the Rockport celebrity's life is called "the toast of the coast" and a "heart-warming story," is sung by Maine's Dick Curless, who has given Andre a waterproof guitar.

"He'll probably like this," Andre's trainer, Harry Goodridge, said of the tune. "We just might give it a try" on Andre's guitar, when the seal comes to shore for the season next month.

Harry's wife, Thalice, was not sure what impact the latest accolade would have on Andre, but she predicted the seal would feign indifference.

"He's pretty relaxed most of the time," she said. "He never really lets you know what he is thinking."

The song, written by Manny Hobbs, an airplane pilot from Rockport, traces Andre's life back to puphood, 18 years ago, when Goodridge "took the pup from the swirling white foam, gave him a name and gave him a home."

"We all just love Andre so much, you know," said Curless, of Hampden. "I've known him since he was just a pup."

"It's just the funniest thing" to see Goodridge holding the notes on the specially made guitar while Andre strums with his nose, said Curless, who has had several nationwide hit

songs in his career.

The Andre song was recorded in Nashville and has the angelic voices of 30 children singing the chorus. The refrain praises the 225-pound seal as "the toast of the coast" and says, "we all like to boast when we love Andre the Seal."

This spring, Andre will not be making the annual Boston-to-Rockport swim that has been documented as well as most U.S. space flights. Goodridge said Andre did not spend the winter in his regular cold-weather home, the New England Aquarium, in Boston.

"I guess he anticipated the mild winter and wanted to stay home," said Curless, a longtime shark-hunting partner of Goodridge's.

Goodridge sees Andre regularly when the vaudevillian seal

swims into Rockport or Rockland harbor to visit, he said. He saw him Thursday, and "he seems like he's doing real well," he added.

Coast Guard officials have reported that a disease is spreading among seals along the New England coast as far north as Saco and that several have died. Goodridge said he hoped Andre would mix only with healthy company.

Also included in the song is the fact that Andre and his Boston flame, "Smoke," have not produced the "little surprise" some fans have wanted. It ends saying, "it's a ragged coast back to old Rockport town." But it assures listeners that Andre will make it "back to his harbor to thrill all the crowd and to hear all the children a-singing out loud."

CAMDEN TRIBUNE  
JAN 30-1980



## Andre's Log:

Andre was released from his floating pen on October 4. He has visited Rockport on an average of every four days since.

His latest visit to Rockport was Friday, January 18. He appeared on Howard Kimball's float about 9 a.m. I checked with him three times that day and he remained there sleeping until late afternoon, Saturday, January 20. At 4 p.m. he was gone again.

Since October 4 he has been reported in Lincolnville Beach, Pulpit Harbor, Rockland, South Thomaston, Thomaston, Mussel Ridge Channel, as well as his home territory, Rockport. He has been reported many times in the company of other seals, they usually following him, so I assume he is their leader.

He is very well fed (feeding himself), extremely self-satisfied, slightly conceited and decidedly hammy. A perfect example of a harbor seal (*Foca Vitulina*).

Submitted by his slave,  
Harry Goodridge

(Andre presumably missed his January appearance on NBC's "Real People," but no one's taking any bets.)





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(212) 867-7700

April 30, 1980

Mr. Harry Goodridge  
Rockport, ME 04856

Dear Mr. Goodridge:

Some time ago, you so kindly provided us with information about Andre for an article we were planning for our magazine, News Trails. I am pleased to send you several copies of the published article. Thank you so much for your help.

For your information, News Trails is a national classroom periodical for elementary school children and their teachers. Its circulation is about a million. We are sure that many children enjoyed reading about Andre.

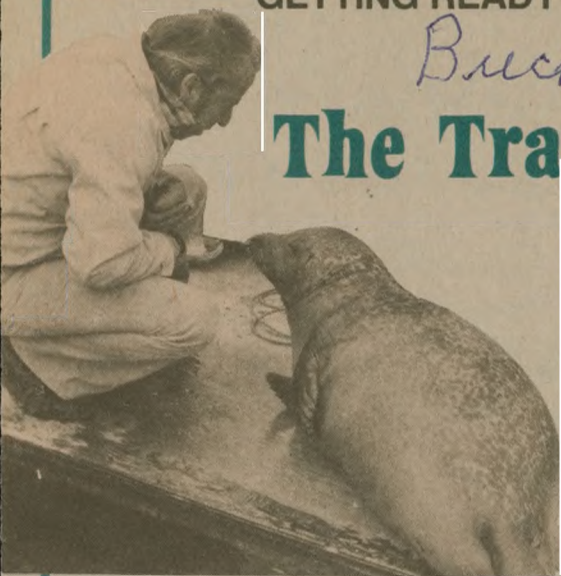
Thank you again and best of luck to you and Andre.

Sincerely,

Lucia Monfried  
Assistant Editor  
News Trails



## GETTING READY FOR WINTER

*Bucha***The Traveling Seal**

Winter is coming. Andre, the seal, will take a long trip. Andre is a tame seal. Most of the year, he swims and plays near the home of his owner (left). Andre lives in the waters near Rockport, Maine.

Jim Moore photo

When winter comes, ice chunks form in the water. These could stop Andre from getting enough food. So the seal spends the winter in an aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. How does he get there? He flies in a plane! In the spring, Andre will return to his home in Maine.

**Moving Day for Pelicans**

A pelican chase is about to take place. The chase happens each year at the Bronx Zoo in New York City.

Pelicans live in a pond at the zoo during warm weather. But they must be taken indoors when it gets cold. Zoo workers in boats (below) chase the pelicans with nets to catch them.

The pelicans don't know they're being helped, and try to get away. People on shore watch and clap as the pelicans are caught one after another. Then the birds are taken to their warm winter homes.



Nat Fine/N.Y. Times photo

**MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR**

Photos by Dave Peterson/Des Moines Register

November 22 will be a very special day for the Thi family of Iowa. It will be their first Thanksgiving in their new land. They will give thanks for having been able to come to America.

The Thi family came from Vietnam. Like many other people in that country, they had hard times there. The government had strict rules. The people had to stay indoors at certain times. Many had their homes and businesses taken away. Their children could not go to school.

The Thi family and thousands of others tried to escape from Vietnam. In the dark of night, they climbed into boats. They sailed through rough seas. They tried to land in whatever country would take them.

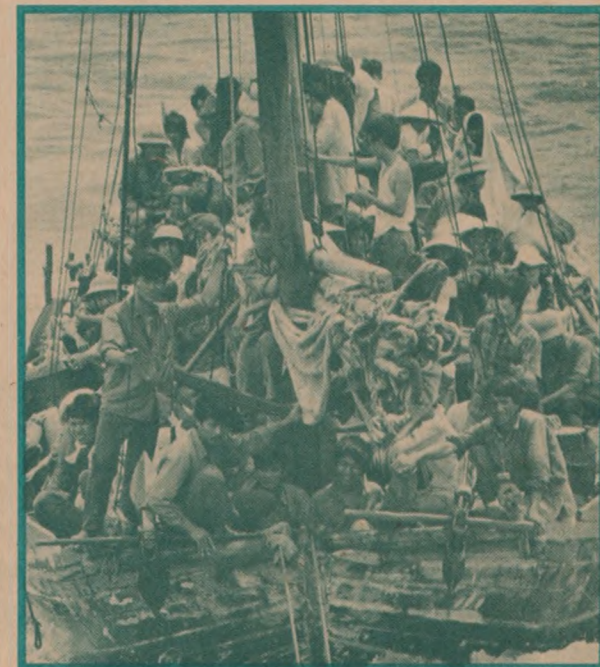
Some of the "boat people" never

reached shore. They drowned in their leaking and crowded boats. Some reached land but found there was no room for them in many places, and they had to keep traveling on. Those that landed were often kept in crowded refugee camps. But they felt lucky and happy to be safe and dry and fed.

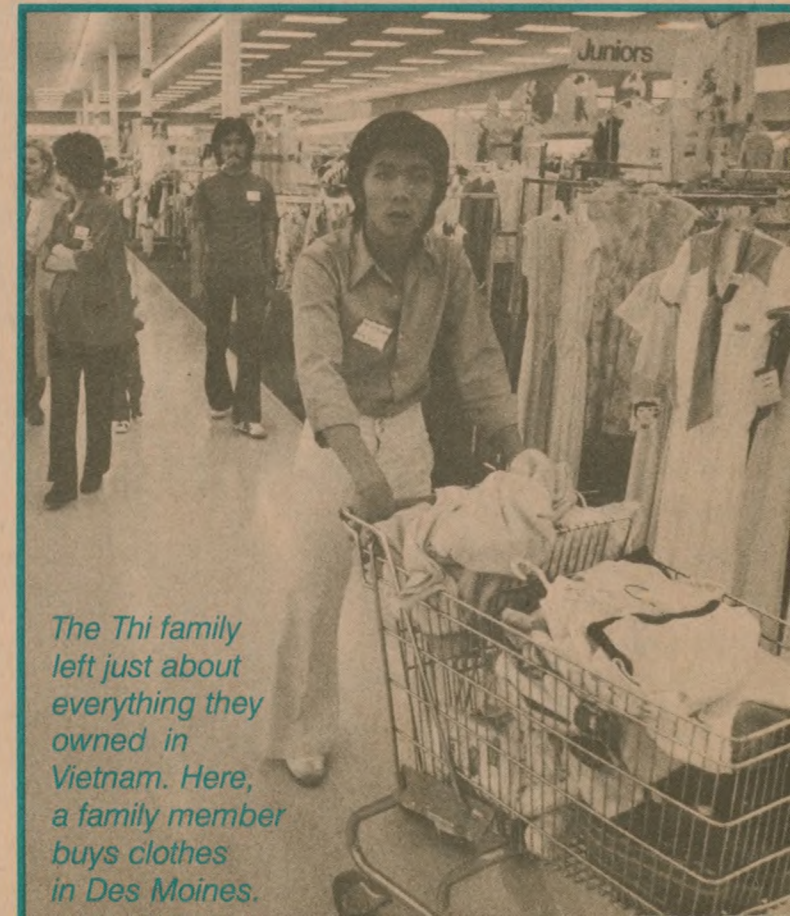
The luckiest of all were able to come to new lands to live and work and raise their families. The Thi family is one of these. Some Americans in Des Moines, Iowa, agreed to "adopt" them. A home was found for them in Des Moines. The older family members have jobs. The children are going to school. They are learning more about their new country. They expect to become U.S. citizens someday.

Yes, the Thi family members have much to be thankful for.

At left, members of the Thi family got off the plane that brought them to Iowa. Below, you see the kind of boat they sailed in when they left Vietnam.



Bartlett Woodfin Camp photo



The Thi family left just about everything they owned in Vietnam. Here, a family member buys clothes in Des Moines.



## Teaching About Thanksgiving Vietnamese Refugees – Today's Pilgrims A Skills Card on Compound Words



TEACHERS' EDITION

Volume 36, No. 9/Nov. 15, 1979

### AN OVER-ALL LOOK

**No Issue Next Week:** *News Trails* will not publish an issue next week when many schools close for the Thanksgiving holiday. We send you and your class our sincerest wishes for a happy holiday. Your next *News Trails* will be dated November 29. It will offer a FOCUS unit based on the theme "Children Are Important," and will present many examples of children's achievements, a fill-in section for your own students, and a full-color fold-out chart that offers suggestions for activities children can become involved in.

**This Week:** This issue consists of apparent and subtle themes to explore with your girls and boys. On the surface, we have provided holiday and seasonal news – a Thanksgiving parade on the cover, Vietnamese people in the U.S. celebrating their first Thanksgiving here (pp. 2 and 3), and two animals moving from warm-weather to winter habitats (p. 2).

A more subtle relationship may be made between the Pilgrims of the 1620's and Vietnamese boat people of today. Both groups had been harassed and sought freedom to lead their own lives in peace. Both escaped from their oppressors in boats. Both found haven on our shores.

Page 1

### PILGRIM PARADE

**Words to Review:** Pilgrim, Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**Background:** The Pilgrim parade through Plymouth, Massachusetts, helps to re-create events of the Pilgrims' first thanksgiving, during which colonists who had survived the first harsh winter in the New World gathered together and walked to their meeting house to pray and give thanks for being alive and for their good harvest. Afterward, they held their thanksgiving feast (which lasted three days).

Plymouth, Massachusetts, today is a bustling, modern town. To the south of the town is a re-creation of the village the Pilgrims built, showing homes, farms, and streets. Employees of this "museum village" are dressed in authentic costumes and demonstrate the work, tools, and handicrafts of the Pilgrims. The village is called Plimoth Plantation, using an old-time spelling of the name Plymouth.

**Discussion:** You might ask: *What are the people in the photo doing?* (They have dressed up as Pilgrims, marching through streets, etc.) *Why is this happening in Plymouth, Massachusetts?* (It's the place where the Pilgrims settled.) *When does this parade take place?* (each Thanksgiving Day) *What are some things you and your family do on Thanksgiving?* (gather with relatives, have a special dinner, go to church, see parades, watch football games, etc.) *How might your Thanksgiving be like that of the Pilgrims?* (give thanks, eat turkey and other good foods, share good times with others, etc.)

**Activities:** You might have pupils make personal lists of what they are thankful for in their own lives.

Coordinate this feature with the map-reading activities in the Thinking Corner, which explore the passage of the Pilgrims from Plymouth, England, to Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Page 2

### THE TRAVELING SEAL *Horse chie*

**Words to Review:** Rockport, Maine, aquarium, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Background:** Andre, the seal, was found in the waters off Rockport, Maine, about 18 years ago by an animal trainer, Harry Goodridge. Since the baby seal was apparently abandoned by its mother, Goodridge adopted it, cared for it, and trained it to do tricks.

As a tame harbor seal, Andre swam freely around the harbor of Rockport and performed for tourists. Six years ago, fishermen protested that Andre was climbing into their boats to sun himself. Goodridge was afraid that Andre might accidentally overturn a boat, so he built the seal a pen the size of a football field. Goodridge goes in a boat to feed Andre every day.

Because ice prevents him from boating out to Andre in the winter, the seal is sent to the New England Aquarium until spring. At the aquarium Andre does tricks and performs for visitors. Pupils might be interested to know that in the spring Andre does not go by plane but swims

(Continued on page 3)

### QUIZ ANSWERS

**Thinking Corner:** 1. Europe, 2. North America, 3. Atlantic Ocean, 4. west.

**Bleep and Oko:** "Thanks"



(Continued from page 1)

back to his home on his own.

**Discussion and Activity:** To check comprehension, you might ask: *Who will take a trip? Why is he going? Where will he travel? How will he get there? What will Andre do in the spring?*

Children might enjoy dramatizing Andre's trip to the aquarium — boarding the plane, the stewardess' surprise, what is done and said, etc.

Page 2

## MOVING DAY FOR PELICANS

**Words to Review:** pelicans, Bronx, weather, caught.

**Background:** In North America, pelicans live mainly in western states and in Canada. These birds migrate with the approach of winter and during that season live along the California Coast, the Gulf Coast, and in other southern areas. Thus, the birds are not adapted to the cold, and, at the Bronx Zoo, keepers must take them indoors where they live in a warm pool area until spring. The annual pelican "chase" has become a popular attraction at the Bronx Zoo.

**Discussion:** You might ask: *What kinds of care do animals get at a zoo? (place to live, food, proper temperature, medical attention, etc.) You might wish to add that many modern zoos, such as the Bronx Zoo, attempt to simulate the animals' natural environment, providing the kinds of plants, rocks, dens, and other aspects of the animals' homes in the wild. Do you have pets? What care do you give them? (Answers will probably include many of the factors mentioned above for zoo animals.)*

**Activities:** You might wish to correlate this feature with any work you may be doing on animal adaptation for winter. Point out that nature has provided a number of ways for animals to deal with winter conditions. Some animals *migrate* — travel to warmer places in winter, and return in spring. Some *hibernate* — sleep through the winter. Some animals *stay put* — growing warmer coats of fur or feathers, laying in stores of food, etc. Pupils may choose favorite cold-weather creatures and research the ways they cope with oncoming winter.

Page 2 and 3

## MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

**Words to Review:** Thanksgiving, Thi, Vietnam, government, certain, businesses, thousands, leaking, refugee, Des Moines, Iowa, citizens.

**Background:** Since the 1975 Communist takeover of South Vietnam, hundreds of thousands of people have fled due to the repressive actions of the government. Over 220,000 Indo-Chinese refugees have resettled in America.

Among people most persecuted by Vietnamese Communists have been those of ethnic Chinese background. Vietnam's movement to rid itself of its Chinese population appears to have accelerated since the Chinese invasion of Vietnam last February. Many Vietnamese Chinese have had their homes and businesses taken away; are being herded into relocation camps which are said to be somewhat like concentration camps; have had curfews imposed on them; have had money confiscated; have had

## A LOOK AHEAD

- **November 22:** No Issue — Thanksgiving Recess
- **November 29:** FOCUS Issue on Child Achievement.
- **December 6:** News and Activities for the Holiday Season... Listening Skill Builders.

Calendar				
Issue Dates: 1979-80				
<del>Sept. 6</del>	<del>Sept. 20</del>	<del>Sept. 27</del>	<del>Oct. 4</del>	<del>Oct. 11</del>
<del>Oct. 18</del>	<del>Nov. 1</del>	<del>Nov. 8</del>	<del>Nov. 15</del>	<del>Nov. 29</del>
Dec. 6	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Feb. 7
Feb. 14	Feb. 21	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 20
Mar. 27	Apr. 10	Apr. 17	Apr. 24	May 1
May 8				

police hound them about when they intend to leave; and have actually been placed aboard boats.

In June of this year, when the boat people received heightened international attention, President Carter announced a new intake of 14,000 refugees each month. Last winter, however, before this official increase was called for, Governor Robert Ray of Iowa wrote to President Carter and offered to increase his state's number of Vietnamese refugees. Many Iowans, such as the Thi family's sponsors in Des Moines, rallied to the cause, and are now personally involved in helping Vietnamese families adjust to their new lives in the U.S.

**Discussion and Activity:** To check comprehension, ask: *Why will November 22 be a special day for the Thi family? (It's Thanksgiving Day; it will be their first Thanksgiving in the U.S.) Why did the Thi family want to leave Vietnam? (Government made strict, unfair rules; people had businesses taken away; children couldn't go to school, etc.) How did the Thi family leave Vietnam? (in a boat) What happened to some of the boat people? (Some drowned; some are still in camps; some resettled in other lands; etc.) Where did the Thi family finally find a new home? (in Des Moines, Iowa)*

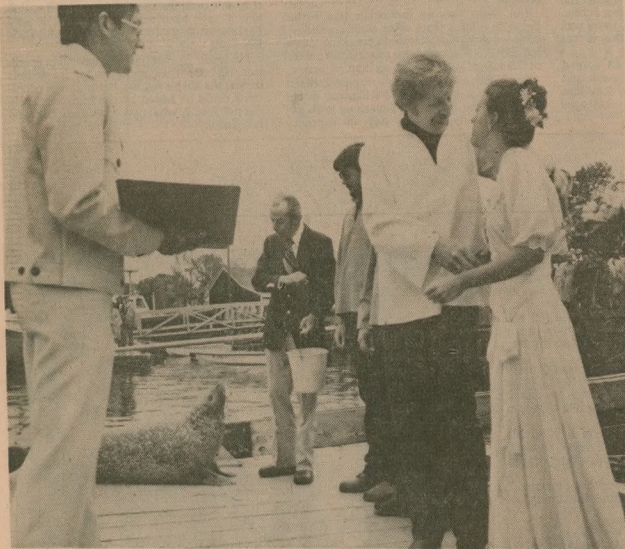
You might discuss with pupils the parallels between the Vietnamese refugees and the Pilgrims who settled in America long ago. (Both were searching for freedom; were "boat people"; had to adjust to a new way of life, etc.)

Review with pupils the stories in our November 1 issue which dealt with America as a land of immigrants.

You might have pupils imagine that a Vietnamese child has moved next door. They could make a list of ways to help the new child. (e.g.: show the child things in the neighborhood, be a friend, be patient while the child is learning English, explain new things, etc.)

Have pupils find Vietnam on a world map and note how far the refugees would have to travel to reach the U.S. west coast and then Iowa. (Continued on page 7)





While a minister marries Toni Goodridge and Richard Lermond on a float in Rockport Harbor, the ringbearer, Andre, gets a mouthful of fish from his trainer and father of the bride, Harry Goodridge. (Weber photo)

# Flipped out

## Andre proves sleek, hungry ringbearer

By TOM WEBER  
Coastal Bureau

ROCKPORT — The bride wore a pink gown, the groom a tunic and turtleneck, and the ring bearer — well, the ringbearer just gulped raw fish, went for a swim and flopped around in the buff.

Toni Goodridge and Richard Lermond were married Saturday on a float at the Rockport Marine Park. And considering that the bride is the daughter of Harry Goodridge, who better to serve as ringbearer than her nimble companion of many years, Andre the Seal?

Standing on a float in the harbor, the minister presided over the quiet ceremony until he reached that part calling for the exchange of rings. Harry Goodridge, standing on Andre's pen in the middle of the harbor, then hopped into his motorboat and roared across the harbor. Andre, in true playful fashion, leaped dolphin-like through the water alongside his longtime friend and trainer.

Once at the float, Andre was told to get the wedding rings. Slipping purposefully into the grey waters, bolstered by a bellyfull of fish, he soon disappeared. Moments later, to the admiration of the hushed and expectant

crowd of friends and relatives lining the seawall, Andre popped his head through the water. In his mouth was clutched a small purse containing the rings.

To the many visitors who have seen him perform each summer weekend, Andre is as much a ham as a seal. So when Harry gently informed him that his services were no longer needed, Andre remained on the float, taking in the limelight that he has come to know so well. Cameras flashed and a Washington D.C. television film crew was there to record Andre's approval of the marriage — a joyful slapping of the flippers accompanied by a third helping of fish.

Basking in the adulation, Andre then slipped quietly into the bay once more so as not to upstage the balance of the ceremony.

Later, under a drizzling rain, the wedding party began to scurry to the reception. The film crew of a syndicated television show called "The World of People," then poked around the grounds asking the guests what they thought of Andre.

"Oh, I just think he's wonderful," said one woman, who then hustled off into her car.



## Regards from Andre

# Marblehead's favorite seal is up to his old tricks

By JO ANN ROWE

The harbor in Rockport, Maine, is grey and still at 7 a.m. Saturday, and the collection of fishing and pleasure boats that fill the harbor gleam from the rain just ending.

In the middle of the harbor, some 100 feet off shore, a large wood and wire mesh rectangle frames several hundred feet of prime harbor space. It seems incongruous until, with a nearly imperceptible splash, a handsome grey harbor seal slides his head out of the water.

It's Andre, Rockport's (and Marblehead's) favorite harbor seal. Later in the day hundreds of fans will line the harbor to watch Andre's regular act, and get a few surprises. But for now, he has an audience of one, and his "act" is limited to submerging and surfacing at several-minute intervals.

There is a steady traffic of Andre watchers during the day, though. After a few minutes, two more people leave their cars to catch a quiet glimpse of the seal whose reputation has earned him pounds of ink in the press, and an oft-repeated segment on television's "Real People."

For three years, Andre's owner, Harry Goodridge, had brought Andre to the New England Aquarium in Boston to spend the winter. And in the spring, it became a ritual for Andre to be released in Marblehead harbor for his swim back to Maine.

But this past winter, a number of factors led Goodridge to decide against



A HIGH JUMP is one of the 100 "behaviors" Rockport, Maine's Andre the seal has learned over the years. Here, he leaps to grab a freshly-caught mackerel from his owner and handler, Harry Goodridge.

the Boston Trip. Instead, Goodridge let the seal swim free for the winter.

So, Andre swam back to his pen in Rockport from the coast of Maine, not from the sand on Riverhead Beach.

His loyal fans, who in the past crowded the Marblehead shore to watch Andre take off, and then waited for hourly reports of sightings on Andre's long trek home, missed the annual spectacle.

"I couldn't afford the airplane trip down," Goodridge explained last week in Rockport. "I could truck him down, but he can't stand to be in his pen for that long."

Goodridge also said that the death of several hundred seals off the coast of Massachusetts

during the past year scared him. A disease that has been tentatively identified by the Aquarium staff as a pneumonia virus, has apparently been the cause of the seal deaths. Goodridge didn't want to run the risk of Andre contracting the disease.

"We had a seal wash up down the coast of Maine," he said, "and that really scared me to death. I don't think I'd have sent him down even if I could have, because of that disease," he said Saturday.

This is Harry and Andre's 20th summer together. Goodridge is now retired from his tree surgeon business, and no longer skin dives for extra money as he once did.

"I had a few little scares,

and decided my luck had run out," he explains.

It was while skindiving that he found Andre, then just a few-days-old pup. Goodridge says that Andre "taught me" the first few tricks that have now evolved into a daily 25-minute show at 4 p.m. in Rockport harbor.

"He'd do something, and I'd give him a fish," Goodridge explained.

Goodridge said that Andre now knows "more than 100 'behaviors' like they call them in the big-time aquariums."

Goodridge likes to visit the "big-time aquariums" during the winter, to see the behaviors they teach their performing seals. He's been to every major aquarium in this

country, and has visited quite a few out of the country as well — including some in the Soviet Union and the Bahamas.

Though Goodridge combines travel and "hibernating" during the winter, in the summer, Andre has become pretty much a full-time job. I used to like to go fishing, but now I have to, to keep him in fresh mackerel."

Though a young girl passes a bucket during the show to help defray the costs of maintaining Andre, Goodridge says "this isn't a living, it's an expense" to care for the seal.

Andre doesn't have a current girl friend, according to Goodridge. Smoke, a female seal from the Aquarium, was sent to Rockport twice to mate with Andre, but, Goodridge says, "nothing happened."

Andre is kept in the pen during the summer because his gregarious ways don't sit well with local boaters.

"He just got too pesky," Goodridge explains. "He'd swamp people's boats and knock over the oars. But the holes in the wire are big enough for fish to swim right through," he continues, as reassurance that Andre doesn't starve while waiting for his 4 p.m. feeding.

This Saturday, the show started out routinely enough. Goodridge fed Andre some fish, gave him a kiss, and put him through some routine "behaviors."

Then, he let the seal out of the pen to visit with the crowd. At first, Andre came right back to continue the show —

but then just plain disappeared.

Goodridge called the seal for a while — then took his motorboat out to hunt for him — but no Andre. The show was over.

"He does this about two or three times a year," Goodridge said after arriving back on shore. "He did it just last month."

A friend dropped by after several minutes to report that Andre had been sighted "up at the Howards'" about a quarter mile away. Goodridge said he would take the boat out later and have Andre chase him home. And on Sunday morning, sure enough, Andre was back in his pen, bobbing up and down, and submerging to hunt for fish.

Goodridge says he missed making the trips to Marblehead this year, but he's pretty much decided to let him swim free again this winter.

"It's really much better for him to be free during the winter. Last winter he'd come in once in a while to say hello — and he got fat."

Goodridge says he clearly remembers the spring, 1979, swim Andre made from Marblehead. "That was really spectacular, with all those people waiting on the beach," he recalls.

And though he doesn't think he'll give Andre the chance to set new Marblehead-to-Rockport swimming records, Goodridge had good words for his and Andre's friends here.

"Give my regards to all the people in Marblehead," he said.



Aug 8, 80

Mr. Goodbridge -

As you requested, I'm  
sending along the clipping of  
my story on Andre.

I enjoyed talking with  
you - and I wish we could  
find a way to get you &  
Andre back here sometime.

Best regards -

Steve Daur



## Downwind

## In praise of the wild blueberry

MAN WHO loves to pick 'em but not to eat 'em dropped in the other day with almost two quarts of wild blueberries. (He's a relative of another generous dropper-in who loves to catch 'em but breaks out in hives if he ingests anything except a random sardine.) Our berry man had to pay to pick, it is true, but the proffered fruit was mostly No. 2 and not the oversize buckshot that the hybridized, domesticated bushes propel into your pail in the backyard. This is not to say that the nursery variety of shrub does not bear a fine, mannerly fruit. In fact, that's just the trouble: Its berries are too good to be true — "so round, so firm, so fully packed" (as the Lucky Strike commercial used to go before cigarette prose was filtered). Your high-bush wild berry, on the other hand, while not exactly scruffy, has the air of a randomly turned out sportsman happy on a ridgetop or an overgrown pasture and whose feet rejoice in the tangle of steeple bush, thistles, witchgrass, hay-scented fern, and white pine and poplar saplings that abound in open uplands reverting to forest where both the picker and the blueberry shrub rejoice.

Picking over this manna for leaves, stems, toddlers and decrepit senior citizens took little time. Our man picks ruminatively, not for gold. In rapid order, the bowl was ready for the arbiter, and opening the fridge door and reaching for the dough, her obvious decision was pie. Next she opened the 1930 edition of "The Boston Cooking School Cook Book" authored by Fannie Merritt Farmer. Eleven editions of this admirable kitchen pharmacopoeia (3 million copies in print) have been issued since 1896, and it is now known to kitchen sisters as "Fannie Farmer." The arbiter, somewhat of a classicist in things culinary, thought the recipe in the 1930 edition of "Fannie Farmer" was appropriate because the backyard berry then was only a gleam in Luther Burbank's eye. The recipe was simplicity itself. The only curious ingredient was six seeded, cut-up green (meaning unripened) grapes to give the pie an extra tang. Most current recipes prescribe lemon juice since lemons are now so readily available.

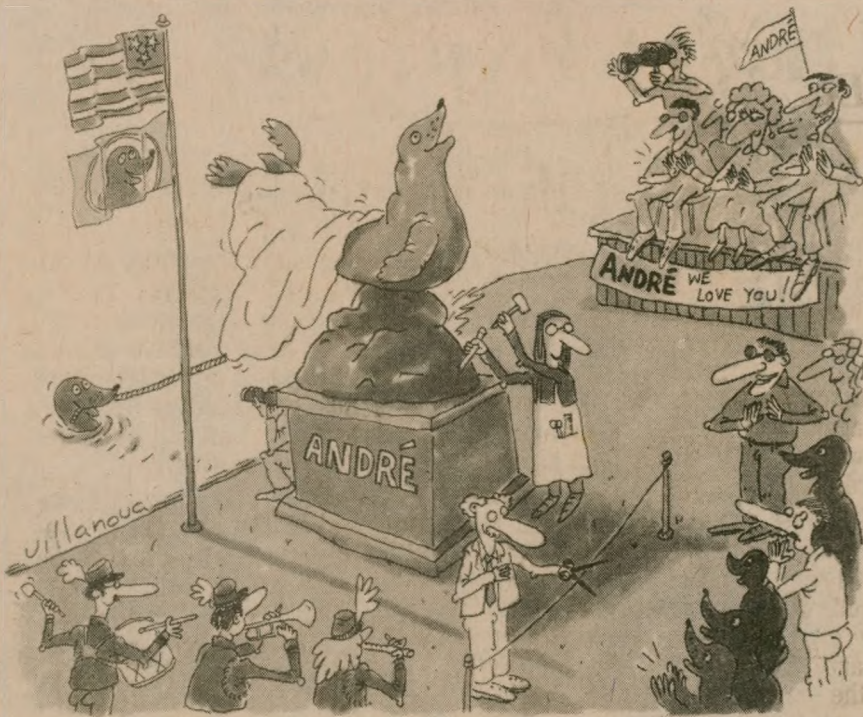
We are not overly given to hyperbole, but honesty compels the assertion that the resultant confection is a dish that makes New England year-round not only bearable, but serenely habitable. There is something about the cobalt blue of the small wild berry tucked under a flaky piecrust that combines the gentle tartness of the fruit to the sound of a distant cowbell, the buzz of a bumblebee, the souging of the gentle breeze and the fullness of earth breaking the solitude of a summer afternoon.

## Andre the seal

A few years ago, when this department was last in Rockport, Maine, lunching in a restaurant overlooking the harbor and marina, Andre was also out to lunch. Didn't see fin or flipper of him. Likewise, we have always been out of sync with Andre at the New England Aquarium in Boston. Andre is that harbor seal who summers in the waters of Rockport and winters in Boston, often swimming both ways. In truth, Andre, now 18 and weighing 350 pounds, has become a living legend. Newspapers always reserve a choice inside spot to record his seasonal arrivals and departures. He is in the same print league as the whooping cranes and the Capistrano swallows.

Andre, in a manner of speaking, is now a permanent New England legend — in granite no less. Andre-addicts will remember that in October 1978 a sculpture of him was dedicated in Rockport in a spot overlooking the waters where he grew up as an abandoned pup. The sea-going mammal was brought up and tamed by Harry Goodridge of Rockport.

Quite by chance, the subject of Andre came up during a recent Tanglewood weekend. We struck up a conversation over drinks with a concert-going sculptor



from Lincolnville, Maine, by the name of Jane Wasey. She is a Paris-trained artist, 60ish and well-sculpted herself, whose works in stone or wood have always sold well. Lincolnville is but a short swim, sealwise, from Rockport, where Andre is affectionately regarded for his constancy and his attraction of tourists to the village, which is a mile or two off Route 1. So in 1977 it was decided that Andre should be memorialized, and Miss Wasey agreed to donate a sculpture of him if the town would supply the granite and deliver it to her barn studio. It arrived in due course — a block weighing four tons. Miss Wasey attacked the problem with enthusiasm and vigor. She told us the granite was so hard that she started with a three-pound hammer for roughing out the stone and finished with a two-pound hammer, heavier tools than she usually uses. Working with the stone off and on for more than a year, she finished the representation of Andre — one-third over life size — in the summer of '78. Andre in stone weighed in at two tons.

Dedication day came in October, and the sculpture was covered over with a cloth on a pedestal overlooking the harbor, so sculpted that Andre is readily accessible to youngsters for bareback riding. The whole town turned out along with a considerable company of Ms. Wasey's artistic friends from far and wide. The climactic moment came after the congratulations and acknowledgments were made. A coil of rope, one end of which was attached to the cover over the statue, was thrown into the water below. Andre, who has no Equity card but who is almost as talented as his sea-lion cousins who perform in the circus, took the rope in his mouth, swam out to deep water thus unveiling the statue! Cheers, whistles, horn-blowing, conch-sounding.

But wait, there's more. The high school band was on hand and at the moment of the unveiling was to strike up its liveliest tune for the greatest maritime spectacular in the history of Rockport — and perhaps of all Knox County. And here, in relating her story, Ms. Wasey had to put down her drink. The band broke out, she said, not with Handel's "Water Music" nor even "Anchors Aweigh." No, it was "Sweet Georgia Brown!"

## Bert the bread maker

King Arthur Flour is to breadmakers what Coors Beer is to beer drinkers. It's a regionally distributed product and people who can't get it down at the corner market or package store hanker for it ascribing certain mystical qualities to it not possessed by the standbys readily available. The Colorado brew isn't the rage in New England that it was a few years back. Not so with King Arthur. Finicky Long Island and New Jersey homebakers vacationing in New England fre-

quently pick up a sack or two of the flour put up by an ancient Boston firm which confines its distribution to New England. The family firm of Sands, Taylor & Wood, founded in 1790, don't make damn fools of themselves about the excellence of their flour other than to say that it's unbleached and without additives and its protein content is higher than many others'. But they sure believe enough in it to put a vice president on the road most of the year demonstrating on the theme "Breadmaking Made Easy" — using King Arthur, of course.

Bert Porter, who has been with the company for almost 35 years, has been publicly kneading bread dough for some 15 years, punching out six kinds of bread at demonstrations all over New England and making frequent TV and radio appearances. Mr. Porter was at the annual Kitchen Festival of the Hancock (Mass.) Shaker Village last week. This department has no claim to prowess at the bread board, but it yields to no nose in its downwind appreciation of the aroma of homemade golden loaves emerging from the oven.

So this reporter was present at one of Mr. Porter's four sessions, and in an audience which contained an agreeable minority of males. As a demonstrator, Mr. Porter possesses the plain-speaking approach of Julia Child or the late lamented Jim Crockett; but in appearance he looks more like a salesman, which he was earlier in his career with King Arthur, than a baker. However, when he gets to kneading and reminiscing about his grandmother's kitchen, it is poetry. Grandmother's bread-making was a major task, he observes, requiring almost 10 hours from start to finish. But using his demonstrated easy method, only four hours are needed. Start your bread after breakfast, he says, and eat it for lunch.

Home bread-making, always practiced by women who don't regard the kitchen as a prison but as a pleasant room, never went out of style. But when the national baking companies started to turn out "batter whipped" bread packed with additives to prolong shelf-life, its taste — for all its nutritive value — was once aptly described as equal to that of "an inedible napkin." It was then that home bread-making started to make a strong comeback. King Arthur's sales for its bread flour sold at retail, for instance, have been on an uninterrupted upward curve for 20 years, according to its Boston office.

Doubtless the King Arthur brand of unbleached flour made from hard spring wheat is not essential to an aromatic, nubile and well-stacked loaf, but it smells, looks and tastes that way. And the soft sell of a Bert Porter makes a lot of people think so.

—L.K.M.



1980

## Andre's been running into trouble

ROCKPORT, Maine (AP) — Andre the seal, who used to get headlines with his annual 160-mile swim from Boston to Maine, has been running into trouble lately both in and out of the water.

In recent years, the trained seal spent winters in the New England Aquarium in Boston, then returned to Rockport under his own power for the summer. But his trainer, Harry Goodridge, complained about the cost of flying Andre to Boston each fall and decided last winter to let Andre roam free.

However, complaints from fishermen have convinced Goodridge that it's time to seek a new winter home for Andre. Goodridge said the 19-year-old harbor seal was up to his old tricks, clambering aboard fishermen's dinghies and perhaps stealing bait.

The seal "almost got his head blown off" in one instance, Goodridge said this week after Andre returned to his floating pen in Rockport harbor.

Meanwhile, a battle shaping up here could mean the end of Andre's free shows for thousands of tourists.

"The town manager says the crowds grew so big at times last summer that now they want me to hire a policeman for crowd control," Goodridge said. "Andre will stop giving the shows before I have to start paying for that."

Said Town Manager Paul Weston: "We love having Andre put on his performances in town ... It's just that in the past, Harry has had someone directing traffic and taking up collections, and he says now it's too expensive for him to hire someone."



# In Brief . . .

Maine

*Lot's Sun*

Andre Gets into the Act

*10-14-80*

ROCKPORT (AP) — The wedding ceremony on a float in Rockport Harbor was quiet and routine until the minister reached the part calling for the bridal couple to exchange rings.

That's when Andre the celebrity seal got into the act.

Andre served as ringbearer Saturday at the wedding of Toni Goodridge and Richard Lermond. The bride's father, Harry Goodridge, is Andre's trainer and boon companion.

As the time for the ring exchange approached, Goodridge hopped from Andre's pen in the middle of the harbor to a motorboat, then roared across the water. Andre followed alongside. — FALSE

Once they reached the float, Andre was told to get the wedding rings. He disappeared into the water, then surfaced moments later, clutching in his mouth a small purse containing the rings.

Andre signaled his approval of the marriage with a joyful slapping of his flippers, then celebrated the occasion by downing a third helping of fish.





STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE CHAMBER  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JOSEPH SEWALL  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE SENATE

Dear Mac —

Sorry about my poor correspondence record but somehow lost your address on your first letter and have been running around on State & Bush campaign business ever since. Thanks for the clippings and all of us are supportive of Andre except a few bureaucrats. Hopefully he'll be able to overcome their objections - most of us do! I'll keep one eye and ear open for any problems that I can help with you can be assured. I've been approached by the Newcomen Society several times over the years but have resisted membership because I seem to have all that I can handle with business and political obligations. My



father belonged many years ago and always  
enjoyed the associations he made. Thanks  
for your thoughtfulness but I guess I'll  
wait until I've gotten out of some of the  
things I'm now involved with.

Keep in touch — all the best —

Joe

3/1/80